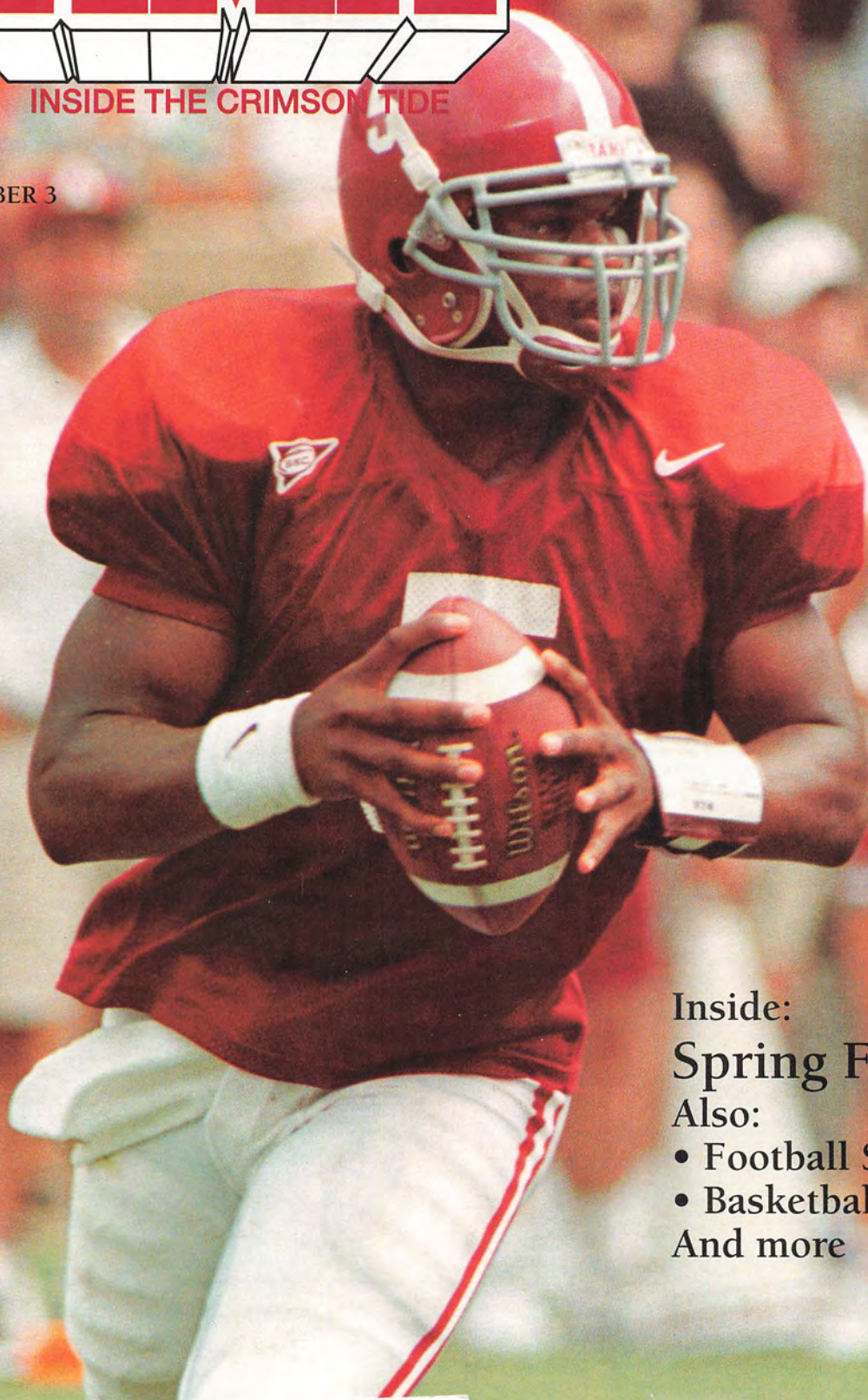


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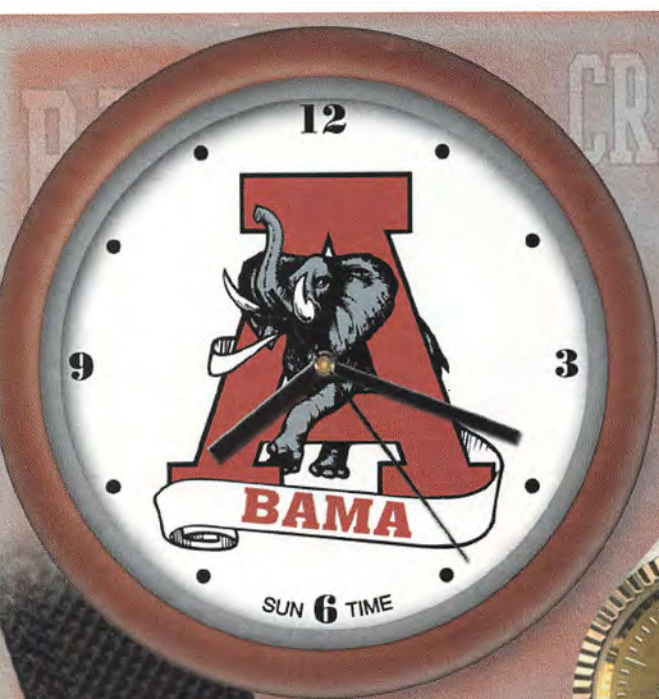
MARCH, 1999
VOLUME 21, NUMBER 3



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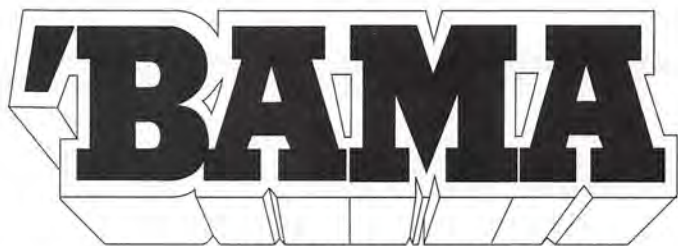
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INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE

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Robert Sutton Photo



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Bama Recruiters Get High Marks

by James Edwards

Here's a look at additions to Crimson Tide football

The final month of the football recruiting season brought about some of the most exciting days in Alabama recruiting history. The caliber of players visiting The Capstone in January was top notch and rated very highly across the nation. While the Tide failed to receive the signatures of a few major players who visited the campus (notably linebackers Recardo Wimbush who picked Georgia Tech, Jesse Miller who signed with Georgia and Kendyll Pope who will go to FSU), Bama did sign the bulk of the group that was targeted. When the dust had cleared on signings (it took an extra day, until February 4, for Alabama to get them all in the fold), Tide coaches had inked 30 players who have their class ranked among the top five in the country.

Head Coach Mike DuBose stated on many occasions that this class was the most important group of football signees in the history of The University. The emphasis he and his staff (led by Assistant Head Coach and Recruiting Coordinator Ronnie Cottrell) placed on this class backs up that acclaim. Their hard work paid off and they should reap the rewards early in fall practice. DuBose stated that "We wanted quantity and quality and we got both. This class will give us competition at every position except punter and place-kicker, where we did not have any signees." In addition he said, "Alabama had to recruit more players in order to be sure of having 25 difference-makers in the new group." One of the boldest statements he made was that he thought "Every one of them can come in and make a contribution their first year because there

was not one player signed who was a second choice."

In evaluating this class against those of other schools, the impressive element is the number of potential first-year players. They will push the starters from last season and that is evidence this class ranks among the nation's elite.

Here, in alphabetical order, is a look at those who are the latest members of the Alabama football team:

Dennis Alexander, 6-5, 335, 5.3-second time in the 40-yard dash, offensive tackle from Westwood High School in Memphis, Tennessee, is a huge offensive lineman who raised his stock tremendously as a senior. He gained high respect from coaches with his performance against the South's number one player, David Paine. He may be massive, but he can still run and he is surprisingly quick for his size. He graded 88 per cent blocking efficiency. Rated as the South's number six offensive tackle by *Pigskin Preps*.

Santonio Beard, 6-1, 190, 4.4, running back from Pearl-Cohn High School in Nashville, Tennessee, was rated as the Volunteer State's number two player. He has been a model of consistency on the gridiron and his athleticism is second to none. He rushed for 2,421 yards his senior year with 38 touchdowns. His career numbers are incredible, 6,185 rushing yards with 84 touchdowns. He had 91 total career touchdowns. He led his team to back to back state championships as a sophomore and junior. He is a member of the *Pigskin Preps* Super South 75 team, *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* Super Southern 100, *Super Prep* All-America team, and the *Prep Sports* All-South second team. He is attending Milford Prep School in Connecticut and should re-sign with Alabama next February.

Hirchel Bolden, 5-10, 190, 4.4, athlete from Dothan High School, is a very elusive talent who could find himself lining up at numerous positions. He has the possibility of being a two-way player in college. He

starred at quarterback as a junior by rushing for 1,400 yards and 15 touchdowns. He also passed for 1,000 yards and six touchdowns. His senior campaign he played both quarterback and receiver and accounted for 1,150 yards and 10 touchdowns. He was injured some as a senior which hampered his overall numbers. He is probably destined for either cornerback or receiver in college. He is rated the number three athlete in the South by *Pigskin Preps* and a member of their Super South 75. He also was a *Tampa Tribune* Top 100 selection, a *SuperPrep* All-America, and an *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* Super Southern 100 member.

Robert Branch, 6-2, 310, 4.9, noseguard from Central High School in Tuscaloosa, is a very highly-touted interior lineman who can stuff the middle as good as any in the South. He also pursues down the line with exceptional and surprising speed. He had to be accounted for on every play. He had roughly 100 tackles each of the past two seasons. He probably will have to begin his career at the junior college level due to academic deficiencies.

Antonio Carter, 5-9, 180, 4.26, wide receiver from Rickards High School in Tallahassee, Florida, is perhaps the fastest player ever signed by Alabama. He is an electrifying performer who can play numerous positions and be a threat. His natural position is probably wide receiver, where he played primarily just two years. His freshman year he had 28 receptions for 911 yards and eight touchdowns. His senior year he had 36 receptions for over 600 yards and 13 touchdowns. His sophomore and junior years he played quarterback, cornerback, running back, and kick return specialist. He was named to the *Pigskin Preps* Super South 75, the *Tampa Tribune* Top 100, the *SuperPrep* National Top 50, the *Prep Star* Dream Team, the *Sporting News* National Top 100, and *Prep Sports* first team All-South.

Gerard Clark, 6-6, 255, 4.75, defensive end from Mainland High School in Daytona



Dennis Alexander



Santonio Beard



Hirchel Bolden



Robert Branch



Antonio Carter



Gerard Clark

Beach, Florida, is a pure rush end that is intense and aggressive. He has the mentality to move down, but with his speed he is being counted on as a pass rusher. He had a superb senior year with 110 tackles and 13 sacks. He plays for a storied program in the Sunshine State that produces talent every year. He was selected a *Prep Sports* second team All-South member.

Gerald Dixon, 6-0, 185, 4.35, cornerback from Paint Branch High School in Burtonsville, Maryland, is one of the nation's top cover corners and one of the top two skill players in the state of Maryland. He is a bona fide cover man who wants to take on the opponent's number one man every game. He did that as a senior and threw a blanket over each one. The most yards gained on him in any one game receiving was just 20. He has intercepted five passes each of the last two years. He played quarterback on offense and accounted for 14 touchdowns. He has a time of 10.3 in the 100-meter dash.

Dante Ellington, 6-6, 317, 5.1, offensive tackle from Colbert County High School in Leighton, is a top offensive lineman in Alabama and a player that received national exposure by being named to the *Parade* All-America Team. He has quick feet, terrific size, and great agility. He has the mobility that separates the great lineman from the average lineman and he graded 91 per cent blocking as a senior. He is rated the number two offensive tackle in the South by *Pigskin Preps* and also made their SuperSouth 75. He was also named a *SuperPrep* All-America, a *Prep Star* Dream Teamer, and *Prep Sports* first team All-South.

Alonzo Ephraim, 6-3, 280, 4.75, center from Wenonah High School in Birmingham, is a very intelligent center prospect who explodes off the ball with authority. He has great speed and exceptional quickness. He graded 91 per cent blocking efficiency as a senior, and that's partially due to the fact that he is a defensive lineman also, and he knows the tendencies. He is rated the number one center in the South by *Pigskin Preps* and also made the Super South 75. He also was selected as a *SuperPrep* All-America and a *Prep Sports* All-South second team member.

Leonard Fulgham, 6-2, 185, 4.4, athlete from Montevallo High School, is a superstar in the making. He is a tremendous athlete who will have an immediate impact at either receiver, free safety, or as a return specialist. He has displayed his talent at each slot. He played receiver as a senior and had 49 receptions for 985 yards and 18 touchdowns. His junior campaign saw him post 72 tackles and eight interceptions (three returned for touchdown) at free safety. As a junior he

How National Experts See Alabama's Class

SuperPrep

1. Texas
2. Ohio State
3. ALABAMA
4. Michigan
5. Texas A&M
6. UCLA
7. Florida

Prep Star

1. Texas
2. UCLA
3. Ohio State
4. Notre Dame
5. (tie) Georgia
5. (tie) Michigan
7. ALABAMA

Rival Net

1. Texas
2. Notre Dame
3. Ohio State
4. Georgia
5. UCLA
6. ALABAMA
7. Florida

Emfinger

1. Texas
2. ALABAMA
3. Georgia
4. Ohio State
5. Tennessee
6. Texas A&M
7. UCLA

Tampa Tribune

1. Texas
2. Notre Dame
3. Ohio State
4. Florida
5. ALABAMA
6. Michigan
7. UCLA

Palm Beach Post

1. Texas
2. Ohio State
3. Texas A&M
4. UCLA
5. ALABAMA
6. Notre Dame
7. Georgia

Lemming

1. Texas
2. Georgia
3. Notre Dame
4. Ohio State
5. ALABAMA
6. Texas A&M
7. UCLA

CBS Sportsline

1. Texas
2. Notre Dame
3. Ohio State
4. UCLA
5. ALABAMA
6. Florida
7. Tennessee

NRA

1. Texas
2. Ohio State
3. Notre Dame
4. UCLA
5. Texas A&M
6. ALABAMA
7. LSU

G&W

1. Texas
2. Georgia
3. Texas A&M
4. Ohio State
5. Notre Dame
6. LSU
7. ALABAMA

And From The Regional Experts

Pigskin Preps

1. ALABAMA
2. Georgia
3. Florida
4. Tennessee
5. LSU
6. Florida State
7. Miami
8. Mississippi State
9. Arkansas
10. Auburn

Prep Sports

1. ALABAMA
2. Georgia
3. LSU
4. Tennessee
5. Florida
6. Auburn
7. Florida State
8. Miami
9. Arkansas
10. Clemson

Border Wars

1. Georgia
2. ALABAMA
3. LSU
4. Florida
5. Florida State
6. Tennessee
7. Miami
8. Clemson
9. Auburn
10. North Carolina



Gerald Dixon

also had 10 kickoff/punt returns for touchdowns, although four were called back on penalties. He is a *Prep Sports* third team All-South member.

Michael Gaines, 6-3, 255, 4.7, tight end from Florida High School in Tallahassee, Florida, is the consensus number one tight end in the state of Florida and a player who will have an instant impact in his freshman year. He is a bona fide tight end who caught 18 passes as a senior for over 300 yards and seven touchdowns. He is not limited to just the offensive side of the ball. He posted 120 tackles on defense his senior year and that shows he could see time at linebacker or defensive end. He was selected to the *Pigskin Preps* Super South 75 team, the *Sporting News* National Top 100 Team, and the *Prep Sports* All-South third team.

Casey Gilbert, 6-4, 265, 4.9, tight end from Pascagoula (Mississippi) High School, is a tight end prospect who has the skills to man the position, but also could play the offensive or defensive line. He had 12 receptions for 250 yards and four touchdowns as a junior, plus he has racked up over 100 tackles each of the past two seasons. His blocking ability on offense is second to none. He was selected as a *SuperPrep* All-America, and *Prep Sports* second team All-South.

Brandon Greer, 6-2, 190, 4.5, receiver from Rainbow City and Westbrook Christian High School, is the state's all-time career yardage and single season record-holder in receiving. He broke those records his senior year when he had 71 receptions for 1,740 yards and 31 touchdowns. His career numbers show 151 receptions for 3,375 yards and 51 touchdowns. He broke the records of former Alabama and Cleveland



Dante Ellington



Alonzo Ephraim

Browns star Ozzie Newsome (now a member of both the College and Pro Football Halls of Fame). Greer is a Steve Largent-type receiver who can get open and make big plays. He was honored as the Class A Offensive Player of the Year as a senior.

Tyler Harris, 6-1, 205, 4.5, strong safety from Anderson County High School in Clinton, Tennessee, is a sleeper who played his junior year at Oak Ridge High School where he posted 70 tackles and five interceptions. As a senior he was on track to surpass his tackles as he had 40 in just five games, but a season-ending concussion ended his prep career. Although that injury cast a pall on his status as a prospect, he has said he is completely recovered and is now performing with the track team. He plays hard and isn't afraid to come up and stick the runners. He is rated among the top dozen safeties in the South by *Pigskin Preps*.

Raymon Hudson, 5-10, 190, 4.4, running back from Holmes County High School in Bonifay, Florida, is the least-heralded of the running back signees, but he is a player who will be an immediate force. He was named Class 3A Mr. Football in the state of Florida. He rushed for 1,160 yards and 16 touchdowns to earn that award. He was one of only two returning starters on the offense his senior season. He had 2,029 yards and 24 touchdowns as a junior, and his three-year career numbers are 4,389 yards and 52 touchdowns. He could also star at cornerback where he had 35 tackles, 21 break-ups, and two interceptions as a senior.

Jarret Johnson, 6-4, 265, 4.78, defensive tackle from Chiefland (Florida) High School, is the number one rated defensive tackle prospect in Florida and a two-time member of the Sunshine Network All-



Leonard Fulgham



Michael Gaines

Florida Team. He explodes on the snap and gets by the offensive lineman before he comes out of his stance. He lived in the backfields of the opponents as he had 82 tackles, 17 sacks, and 30 tackles for loss. He was named a *Pigskin Preps* Super South 75 member, *Tampa Tribune* Top 100 member, *SuperPrep* All-America, *Sporting News* National Top 100, and a *Prep Sports* second team All-South.

Charles Jones, 6-0, 170, 4.5, athlete from Burke County High School in Waynesboro, Georgia, is a high school quarterback who has been compared very favorably to former Tider, Deshea Townsend. He also will see his collegiate future as a cornerback. As a senior he posted 80 tackles and three interceptions, which shows he can man the position. On offense as a junior he led his team to runner-up in the state as he produced 2,250 yards and 20 touchdowns. He had no drop-off as a senior as he had 1,900 yards and 14 touchdowns on a much less talented team. He is considered the eighth best athlete in the South by *Pigskin Preps*.

Kenny King, 6-4, 270, 4.7, defensive tackle from Daphne High School, is a rugged defensive lineman who doesn't let up until the final whistle blows. He plays reckless and he intimidates opponents. He finished his senior year with 105 tackles and 10 sacks. He is rated as the number one player in Alabama by many, and a consensus top three. He is a *Parade* All-America. He is rated the number one defensive tackle in the South by *Pigskin Preps* and also made their Super South 75. He also made the *Tampa Tribune* Top 100, *SuperPrep* All-America, *Prep Star* Dream Team, *Sporting News* Top 100, and *Prep Sports* first team All-South.

Milo Lewis, 6-0, 185, 4.45, cornerback



Casey Gilbert



Brandon Greer



Tyler Harris



Raymon Hudson



Jarret Johnson



Charles Jones



Kenny King



Milo Lewis

from City College in San Francisco, California, is a native of Mountain View, California. Perhaps the most important signee on this year's list. He signed in December and is already enrolled in school and will participate in spring practice. With the lack of experience returning in the secondary he was a crucial signature. He displayed his talent in a very strong junior college district. He can eliminate a receiver from the game completely. As a sophomore he allowed just 11 receptions in 12 games and just one went for touchdown. He grabbed four interceptions during that period, which followed a five-interception freshman year.

Matt Lomax, 6-4, 295, 5.1, offensive guard from UMS Wright High School in Mobile, is the top offensive guard in Alabama and another member of the *Parade* All-America list. He is legitimately fast and he fires off with the aggressiveness that creates big holes for ball carriers. He won the Smokehouse Award at Michigan's summer football camp for being the top offensive lineman. He graded 90 per cent as a senior blocker and specializes in pancake blocks. He is a member of the *Pigskin Preps* Super South 75, the *Tampa Tribune* Top 100, and the *Sporting News* Top 100. He received honors also as a *SuperPrep* All-America, *Prep Star* Dream Teamer, and a first team All-South selection by *Prep Sports*.

Roberto McBride, 5-8, 165, 4.4, receiver from Kathleen High School in Lakeland, Florida, is a triple-threat talent who gives a big return from a small man. He is a big-time player at either corner (eight interceptions as a junior), receiver (over 1,000 all purpose yards as a senior), or return specialist (43-yard kickoff return average). He has



Matt Lomax



Roberto McBride

great speed that has been clocked as low as 4.27 in the 40. He is a member of the *Tampa Tribune* National Top 100, and was selected third team All-South by *Prep Sports*.

Garry McNealy, 6-5, 275, 4.85, defensive tackle from Taylor County High School in Perry, Florida, is another super defensive tackle who has battled injuries the past two years but has had his moments. He helped his team to the state championship as a junior. He had a solid senior year that saw him amass 56 tackles and two sacks. His opponents kept him on the run as they ran away from him on most plays. He is rated the number 10 defensive tackle by *Pigskin Preps* and he is a second team *Prep Sports* All-South member.

Brandon Miree, 6-1, 215, 4.4, running back from Winton Woods High School in Cincinnati, Ohio, is a bona fide runner who earned All Midwest honors. He was rated by many as one of the top ten players in the Midwest region and the top running back prospect. He has 10.69 100 meter speed and put that to good use as a senior by rushing for 2,455 yards on 258 carries with 31 touchdowns. That followed a junior year in which he had 1,343 on just 130 carries (10 yards per carry) and 18 touchdowns when he was primarily a blocking fullback. He is the only member of the top 12 players in Ohio to sign somewhere other than Ohio State. He was highly-touted nationwide.

David Paine, 6-7, 265, 4.63, defensive end from Melrose High School in Memphis, Tennessee, is a superstar who needs no introduction. He is the South's number one player and perhaps the best defensive end in the country. He is tall, rangy, and dominating. He is a terror on opposing quarterbacks and he is almost impossible to block one-



Garry McNealy



Brandon Miree

on-one. He finished his senior year with 165 tackles and 44 sacks. He is a *USA Today* All-America, *Parade* All-America, *SuperPrep* National Top 50, *Prep Star* Dream Teamer, *Sporting News* National Top 100, *Prep Sports* first team All-South, *Tampa Tribune* Top 100, and *Pigskin Preps* Super South 75.

Josh Parker, 6-4, 205, 4.7, quarterback from Wakulla High School in Crawfordville, Florida, is a heralded signal caller who ranks among the best in the South. He is rated the seventh best quarterback in the South by *Pigskin Preps*. He passed for 1,987 yards and 20 touchdowns as a sophomore, sat out his junior year for academic and disciplinary problems, and came back his senior year with 1,800 yards and 13 touchdowns, while completing passes at a 58 per cent clip. He suffered a knee injury playing soccer this winter and underwent surgery, which almost certainly assures he will be redshirted as a freshman.

Dave Peterson, 6-3, 230, 4.7, linebacker from Liberty County High School in Bristol, Florida, is a player who is not lacking in the confidence category. He is a prime-time player but appears to be destined for a junior college start. If he had his academics in order he would contend for a starting job. He posted 117 tackles and 17 sacks as a senior. He will be a national recruit coming out of junior college.

Saleem Rasheed, 6-3, 225, 4.42, outside linebacker from Shades Valley High School in Irondale, is another *Parade* All-America. He may be the best pure speed linebacker in the country. He roams the field with the desire to make every play, and he leads by example. He finished his senior year with 155 tackles, 13 sacks, and 39 tackles for loss. He is the number one player in Alabama and an



David Paine



Josh Parker



Dave Peterson



Saleem Rasheed



Jeremy Walker



Leslie Williams



Derrick Woods



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immediate factor in the starting linebacker battle. His brother, Dawud, just completed his career at Duke, where he was the starting fullback. Saleem was selected *SuperPrep* National Top 50, *Tampa Tribune* Top 100, *Pigskin Preps* Super South 75, *Sporting News* National Top 100, and *Prep Sports* first team All-South.

Jeremy Walker, 6-3, 245, 4.52, fullback from Prattville High School, is a gifted power runner who reminds many of former Prattville and Alabama star fullback, Kevin Turner. He is very versatile and could play linebacker or defensive end if necessary (he had 70 tackles, seven sacks as a junior). However, his heart is at fullback and that is where he will get his first look. His rushing stats indicate he could be a bruising runner. As a junior he had 486 yards on 86 carries with seven touchdowns. His senior year he played fullback only and posted 850 yards and seven touchdowns. He also has very good hands for a fullback. He is rated the number 10 player in Alabama by the *Tuscaloosa News*, and he is a member of the *Pigskin Preps* Super South 75.

Leslie Williams, 6-5, 225, 4.54, defensive end from Stone Mountain (Georgia) High School, is a super player who committed early to Georgia Tech but ran into academic problems and ended up following Assistant Coach Lance Thompson from Tech to Alabama. He is a pass rusher deluxe and is solid against the run. He had 92 tackles and 17 sacks as a junior and 86 tackles and 23 sacks and 14 other tackles for losses as a senior. He also played tight end. He is a *Prep Sports* second team All-South selection.

Derrick Woods, 5-9, 165, 4.4, receiver from Melrose High School in Memphis, Tennessee, is the top rated receiver in Tennessee and a dangerous threat every time he touches the ball. His two-year stats are 130 receptions for over 2,800 yards and 30 touchdowns. He has helped his team to a state runner-up finish as a junior, and a state championship as a senior. He is rated the number four player in the state of Tennessee and the number 12 receiver in the South by *Pigskin Preps*.

Those are the thirty signatures that represent the national top five class for The University of Alabama. However there may be a few players added to this list. Terris Martin, linebacker from Clarke County High School in Grove Hill, committed early to Alabama then ran into potential legal trouble. If he can get his problems cleared up and qualify academically, he may be signed at a later date. Also, if there is a super player who qualifies late and hasn't already signed with another



Danny Haynes



Randall Shultz

school, there is always that possibility. Thirdly, if there is a great young college player who is unsettled and is interested in transferring, that could be another avenue to add to this group. That is not to say any such additions are imminent.

This group of newcomers is also expected to be enhanced by the addition of some quality players who are willing to attend Alabama without benefit of scholarship in hopes of earning a scholarship. More than ever, the walk-on is critical to college football success and Alabama will have a handful of new non-scholarshipped players who were recruited in that category. Among those expected are:

Danny Haynes, 5-10, 200, 4.7, place-kicker from Brooks High School in Killen, is a great kicking prospect who hasn't let a handicap (he was born with arms abnormally short) stop him from being a force on the football field. There is nothing wrong with his feet and he can boom a football. As a junior, he was nine of 16 on field goals with a long of 54, while his senior year he was six of nine with a long of 49 yards. His kickoffs are very high and most of the time carry deep into the end zone. He is a confident player who feels he can win the job this year.

Randall Shultz, 6-5, 290, 5.3, offensive tackle from Jackson High School, is a very strong and physical lineman who would be considered quite likely to see playing time before his career is complete. He has all the tools to be successful, and he is determined. He took recruiting trips to Alabama, Auburn, Mississippi State and Southern Miss and turned down an offer from Jacksonville State in order to walk on at The Capstone. He will probably redshirt his first year.

Thad Walker, 6-0, 180, 4.58, strong safety/free safety from Montevallo High School, could be a stellar special teams player as a freshman, plus he could be a factor at safety. He was the leading tackler (143) on his high school team playing free safety in a split-four system. He finished in the top ten in the state 200- and 400-meter dashes. He rejected an offer from West Alabama to attend Alabama.

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A Time To Find A Football Team

by Kirk McNair

DuBose has expectations of making much progress

For the past month or so, the emphasis insofar as football is concerned has been on football recruiting. The importance of recruiting cannot be minimized and Coach Mike DuBose is on record as expecting members of the incoming class to contribute to the 1999 Alabama football team. But with the exception of one junior college transfer, the business of building that team begins without the new signees.

Spring football practice is the next phase of that building process. It is scheduled to begin in mid-March (March 15 is the tentative starting date, weather permitting) and conclude with the A-Day Game April 17. Alabama will have seven days of practice prior to The University's spring break (March 27-April 4) and eight practices (including the Crimson-White Game) following the break. The time of the A-Day Game will be announced later, but it is expected to be earlier than usual, perhaps around noon, in order to conflict as little as possible with a televised Alabama-LSU baseball game at 2 p.m.

Once upon a time, spring practice was the boot camp of college football, every day an exercise in survival. It's still not easy—no day of college football practice is easy except perhaps for a handful of kicking specialists—but it's not the ordeal it has been in the past.

Statistics compiled by the NCAA showed that more serious injuries occurred during spring practice than during any other time for football players. As a result, legislation was implemented in order to make spring training safer. And so now the first two days of spring practice are strictly learning situations. Players wear helmets for protection, but no shoulder pads or other contact gear. There is one other such practice during the 15 spring dates and Alabama uses that final non-contact day in the workout prior to the A-Day Game. Of the remaining 12 practices, there can be tackling in only eight. And of those eight, there can be scrimmage work (11 players vs. 11 players) for 50 per cent or more of the practice only three days. One of those is the spring game, meaning only two other days can include full speed scrimmages.

One of those scrimmages is expected to be April 10, the week before the A-Day Game and the second day of the annual spring coaching clinic, in which hundreds of high school and college coaches from throughout

the South will be on the campus to watch practices and meet with Alabama coaches.

The last time we looked in on Alabama's football team the Crimson Tide was being blasted by Virginia Tech in the Music City Bowl. That wasn't very pleasant, but considering the restrictions on spring practice, the bowl preparation time could prove very important to future Alabama success. Unlike teams which did not qualify for a bowl game and unlike teams (Tennessee and Florida State) which were playing in the national championship bowl game and could concentrate on nothing else, the Crimson Tide was able to use bowl preparation time as something of a mini-spring practice.

"I feel like we got a little head start on spring practice with our bowl practice time," DuBose said. "Particularly in that week when we didn't know who our bowl opponent would be, we were able to work our younger guys. I think we got a feel for which positions some of them can help us with.

"The game itself was a nightmare, but I believe some positives came out of the overall bowl situation."

DuBose expects almost every Alabama player to take part in spring practice, although a couple may be restricted insofar as contact is concerned. Senior wide receiver Shamari Buchanan, who missed most of last year with two injuries in his shoulder, will probably be exempt from contact work. Junior defensive tackle Kelvis White, who also injured a shoulder, may also be held out of contact.

For an entirely different reason, star senior tailback Shaun Alexander may not get contact work. "We know what he can do," DuBose said. Obviously, it is in the best interest of the football team to keep Alexander healthy. However, the spring also will be a time to determine the back-up tailback, even though that may be the Maytag Repairman position on this team. Alexander got almost every carry last year and this year Bama is pledged to push him for Heisman Trophy consideration, so the number two tailback may be spending a lot of game time as a spectator.

Although most are not expected to miss football practice time for other sports, DuBose is encouraging those football players with expertise in track or baseball to participate "if they can help." Luke Tucker, red-shirt freshman quarterback, is also a member of the baseball team as a left-handed pitcher. Wide receivers Eric Locke and Jason McAddley participated on a limited basis with the indoor track and field team and may be involved in some meets outdoors. However, Alabama's fastest player, tailback Shontua Ray, will not participate in track this spring. He is concentrating on the academic side of college rather than trying to

take on a second sport. He may participate in track later in his career.

DuBose said that he wants Alabama to come out of spring practice with the knowledge of the best position for each Crimson Tide player and with an understanding of "at least" the top two at each position (though not necessarily a clear number one at each spot). "And we've got to make sure we have enough at each position," he said.

Beyond that, the Tide coach hopes to be able to implement as much of the offensive, defensive and special teams plans as possible. (No matter what coaches plan, usually little gets done on the kicking game in the spring. That's partly because of limited time and partly because newcomers traditionally make up a large segment of the special teams.)

While DuBose, as all coaches, would like to use the spring to challenge the mental toughness of his players, he acknowledges that current restrictions make that more difficult.

Another area in which football players have traditionally gained that mental toughness coaches strive for is the off-season conditioning program. DuBose is pleased with the direction of that program, but said "We have had to cut back on some of the things that helped develop mental toughness."

The off-season program is under what is known as the "strength and conditioning coach," in Alabama's case Terry Jones. Because Jones is in overall charge of strength and conditioning of all Bama athletes, DuBose believes that he and his staff are spread too thin. That is one reason Offensive Line Coach Neil Callaway was assigned responsibilities in that area this winter.

"Neil is more involved because he has some expertise in that area from his time at Houston," DuBose said. Callaway came to Alabama from Houston, where he was assistant head coach.

DuBose said, "There is a fine line between overwork and underwork. We may have overworked our players in the past because we were so interested in building mental toughness with our conditioning and agility work. We're still doing that, but we're concentrating more on getting the mass we want, which is strength work."

While DuBose said he anticipates some position experimentation, he did not speculate on which individuals might be involved in changes. But, he said, "We've got to find help in the secondary and at linebacker. I will talk to some guys who have the ability to play those positions to see if they have the interest to do so." It is well-established that players ordi-



Upcoming senior tailback Shaun Alexander has proved what he can do and the star is expected to be held out of most contact work this spring. Barry Fikes Photo

narly perform much better at positions where they want to play than where they do not want to play.

DuBose believes that Alabama will have good competition for most positions in the spring. "With Shaun being held out, I think we will have good competition at every position on offense and on the defensive line," he said. "We've got to get some competition at linebacker and in the secondary. And

we've got to find a punter."

There is no question which position battle will be most closely watched by Alabama fans this spring. And DuBose believes the quarterback competition "will be a lot of fun."

He said, "Everyone assumes we will have a two-man battle, but Luke (Tucker) will also get a shot." The two everyone else will be watching will start out spring practice num-

ber one (sophomore Andrew Zow, who started the last half of 1998) and number two (redshirt freshman Tyler Watts).

"I think all three will be able to move the football team," DuBose said. "All are similar in that they are intelligent, competitive and poised. And Andrew and Tyler, more than Luke, have the athleticism to get out of a bad play."

DuBose said, "It's a good situation. Competition makes them all better and that makes us a better football team." He said he wants to come out of spring practice with "two quarterbacks who are good enough to win with." However, he said, "We will still be a one-quarterback team. We want to know who is number one when we come out of spring practice. If we don't, we want to find out quickly in August, quicker than we did last year." Last year Alabama started the season with John David Phillips as the number one quarterback, but switched to Zow after the fourth game.

Alabama's offense returns a number of experienced players, including a handful of starters. But with the exceptions of Alexander and left tackle Chris Samuels, being a returning starter is not necessarily assurance of a place atop the depth chart in 1999.

Samuels is part of an offensive line that returns intact, Will Cuthbert at right tackle, Jason McDonald and Griff Redmill at guards and Paul Hogan at center. But there are predictions of as many as four changes in this group of five.

Last August, DuBose hoped that a new-comer, junior college transfer Kenric Lott, would win the right tackle job. Going into this spring Lott, who was redshirted last year, is expected to have an excellent chance of moving up to number one at right guard. Among those redshirted last season and considered a "can't miss" player is Bart Raulston, who is rated the favorite to win the job at right tackle (although his long-term future may be at left tackle). Redmill is expected to hold on to a starting position, but it is possible it will be at center. Another center candidate is redshirt freshman Marico Portis. However, Paul Hogan has been on the "starting endangered list" for the past two years and has held on to his job. If Redmill moves from left guard to center, look for his spot to be taken by former defensive lineman Sam Matthews or Cuthbert. And one of the biggest surprises of last year's recruiting class, Lanis Baxley, has to be considered in the mix at tackle.

With Buchanan being held out of contact work and Michael Vaughn electing to turn professional early, along with Quincy Jackson and Calvin Hall having graduated, the wide receiver spots might be considered to be wide open. However, Eric Locke and Freddie Milons are odds-on favorites to win starting positions after impressive freshman debuts last fall. However, wide receiver needs a lot of bodies. Speedsters Jason



Tony Dixon was a starter at strong safety at the beginning of the 1998 season, but moved to free safety when Kelvin Sigler was injured. Dixon is back for his junior season. Barry Fikes Photo

McAddley and Tim Bowens have a little experience. Although not the deep threat of some others, redshirt freshman Sam Collins will certainly be in the mix. This is a position where more depth is needed because Bama is almost always in at least a three-wide receiver formation, and the Tide sometimes uses as many as four or five wide receivers.

Depending on the alignment, Alabama can use a fullback and a tight end or just one of the two or neither. Dustin McClintock, the returning starter at fullback, has the advantage of being able to play both fullback and its off-shoots, the slot and tight end. However, look for Marvin Brown to give him a run. Terry Jones returns at tight end, but based on last year either he is not good enough or the tight end doesn't have a place in this offense.

One would think that a speedster like Shontua Ray or Shaun Bohanon or a power back like Adam Cox would challenge for the job at tailback with Alexander on the sidelines this spring. But Bama's coaches seem to

be more enthralled with hard-working redshirt freshman Ahmaad Galloway and former walk-on Arvin Richard.

The defensive line returns quality and quantity. The four-man front includes such proven commodities as Kenny Smith, Kindal Moorehead, Jamie Carter, Cornelius Griffin, and Reggie Grimes, along with the likes of Carlos Stennis, Shawn Draper and maybe Kelvis White. Todd Whitmore is a junior college transfer who will work at defensive end, while Derek Sanders and Theo Sanders are promising redshirt freshmen candidates.

A key at linebacker will be improvement by returning players. Middle linebacker Travis Carroll had an excuse last year since he played the season with a broken shoulder. However, if he doesn't get more consistent, redshirt freshman Marvin Constant is eagerly awaited by Tide defensive coaches in the middle.

Both Darius Gilbert and Victor Ellis had their moments last year as true freshmen

and the two are both listed at strongside linebacker going into the spring. At weakside linebacker, Bama must hope for big improvement from former junior college stars Canary Knight and Miguel Merritt. That's not an unusual expectation as junior college transfers are often much better in their second seasons. Chris Horne is also capable at weakside linebacker. A lack of numbers makes it difficult to do much experimentation within the linebacker ranks, but some help may come from players moving from other positions.

Tony Dixon at safety and Marcus Spencer at strong safety are turning starters, and there are a couple of others (Phillip Weeks and Jason Jones) in the mix at the two safeties. The picture is less settled at cornerback, although Reggie Myles made some progress last year. Junior college transfer Milo Lewis will be counted on at cornerback, even though he may be more suited in the long run for playing safety. Kecal Bailey did not have a good year at cornerback as a sophomore.

1999 Alabama Spring Football Roster

Name, Pos	Hgt	Wgt	Year	Exp	Hometown	Name, Pos	Hgt	Wgt	Year	Exp	Hometown
Shaun Alexander, TB	6-1	205	Sr	3L	Florence, Ky.	Ray Marshall, OG	6-5	335	Fr	RS	Montevallo
Kecalf Bailey, CB	5-10	158	Jr	2L	Tuscaloosa	Sam Matthews, OG	6-6	288	So	Sq	Jacksonville, Fla.
Michael Barfield, OT	6-5	289	So	Sq	Dothan	Jason McAddley, SE	6-2	190	So	1L	Oak Ridge, Tenn.
Gary Barnes, SS	5-11	195	Jr	Sq	Nashville	Dustin McClintock, FB	6-3	244	Jr	2L	Quinlan, Texas
Lanis Baxley, OT	6-6	284	Fr	RS	Waynesboro, Ga.	Jason McDonald, OG	6-6	310	Sr	3L	Theodore
Lane Bearden, P	6-1	180	Fr	RS	Pelham	Chauvon McFadden, DT	6-3	288	So	Sq	Herndon, Va.
Shaun Bohanon, TB	6-2	207	Jr	Sq	Oak Ridge, Tenn.	Miguel Merritt, WLB	6-0	220	Sr	1L	Hopkinsville, Ky.
Dennis Bonga, SE	6-3	190	Fr	RS	Tallahassee	Freddie Milons, FL	5-11	174	So	1L	Starkville, Miss.
Tim Bowens, SE	6-1	188	Sr	3L	Killen	Kindal Moorehead, DE	6-3	289	So	1L	Memphis
Marvin Brown, FB	6-0	245	So	1L	Hyattsville, Md.	Johnovan Morgan, TE	6-4	265	Fr	RS	Miami
Corey Bryan, SLB	6-1	207	So	Sq	Andalusia	Patrick Morgan, P	6-0	182	Sr	Sq	Birmingham
Shamari Buchanan, SE	6-2	200	Sr	3L	Atlanta	Reggie Myles, CB	5-11	181	So	1L	Pascagoula, Miss.
Travis Carroll, MLB	6-4	226	Jr	2L	Jacksonville, Fla.	Ryan Pflugner, PK	5-10	175	Sr	1L	Sarasota, Fla.
Jamie Carter, DT	6-4	320	Sr	3L	Philadelphia, Miss.	Marico Portis, C	6-2	289	Fr	RS	Prichard
Sam Collins, SE	6-1	178	Fr	RS	Fayette	Bart Raulston, OT	6-9	331	Fr	RS	Sylvania
Marvin Constant, MLB	6-1	239	Fr	RS	Tuscaloosa	Chris Ray, OG	6-2	274	Jr	Sq	Piedmont
Adam Cox, TB	6-1	208	So	1L	Jasper	Shontua Ray, TB	5-10	191	So	Sq	Montevallo
Will Cuthbert, OT	6-5	302	Jr	2L	Fort Pierce, Fla.	Griff Redmill, OG/C	6-6	268	Jr	2L	Jasper
A.J. Diaz, PK	5-11	180	Jr	1L	Miami	Chris Reier, CB	5-9	184	So	Sq	Jacksonville, Fla.
Tony Dixon, FS	6-2	197	Jr	2L	Reform	Arvin Richard, TB	5-7	172	Jr	2L	Atlanta
Shawn Draper, DE	6-4	280	Jr	2L	Huntsville	Jonathan Richey, QB	6-1	198	So	Sq	Fyffe
Rob Egan, SE	6-4	200	Fr	RS	Henderson, Ky.	Chris Samuels, OT	6-6	294	Sr	3L	Mobile
Victor Ellis, MLB	6-2	225	So	1L	Chattanooga	Derek Sanders, DE	6-4	257	Fr	RS	Sandersville, Ga.
Jeff Eller, FL	6-1	175	So	Sq	Pelham	Theo Sanders, DT	6-3	225	Fr	RS	Birmingham
Ahmaad Galloway, TB	6-1	197	Fr	RS	Millington, Tenn.	Marcus Slay, CB	5-8	150	Jr	1L	Dunwoody, Ga.
John Gartman, SE	6-4	175	So	Sq	Camden	Kory Small, DT	6-2	300	So	Sq	New Iberia, La.
Darius Gilbert, SLB	6-2	220	So	1L	Oxford	Kenny Smith, DE	6-5	286	Jr	2L	Meridian, Miss.
Martin Glover, FL	5-9	193	So	Sq	Sumiton	Marcus Spencer, SS	6-2	190	Jr	2L	York
Cornelius Griffin, DT	6-4	283	Sr	1L	Brundidge	Rob-E Staten, DT	6-1	270	Jr	Sq	Pearl, Miss.
Reggie Grimes, DT/DE	6-5	290	Sr	3L	Nashville	Carlos Stennis, DT	6-2	273	Jr	1L	Meridian, Miss.
Ross Gunnells, WLB	6-2	197	Jr	Sq	Aliceville	Jay Stubbs, FL	5-10	175	Fr	RS	Las Vegas
Steven Harris, CB	5-10	182	So	Sq	Clarkston, Ga.	James Sullen, Jr., SE	6-3	195	Jr	Sq	Tuskegee
Paul Hogan, C	6-4	275	Jr	2L	Valdosta, Ga.	Patrick Tate, TE	6-3	230	Fr	RS	Fort Payne
Steven Holloway, DT	6-3	245	Jr	Sq	Hoover	Luke Tucker, QB	5-11	177	Fr	RS	Fayette
Chris Horne, WLB	6-1	212	Jr	2L	Sandersville, Ga.	Michael Vickery, FL	6-2	175	Sr	Sq	Mobile
Jason Jones, SS	5-11	187	So	1L	Tuscaloosa	Tyler Watts, QB	6-3	211	Fr	RS	Pelham
Terry Jones, Jr., TE	6-3	255	So	1L	Tuscaloosa	Phillip Weeks, S	6-2	170	So	Sq	Lake Butler, Fla.
Jason Kellen, P	6-4	210	Jr	Sq	Tuscaloosa	Kelvis White, DT	6-4	287	Jr	1L	Courtland
Canary Knight, SLB	6-2	224	Sr	1L	Tallahassee	Todd Whitmore, DE	6-6	285	Jr	RS	Ranburne
Bradley Ledbetter, Sn	6-3	240	Jr	1L	Pelham	Shaun Williams, DT	6-5	250	So	Sq	Augusta, Ga.
Milo Lewis, CB	6-0	190	Jr	JC	Mountain View, Cal.	Mark Wisniewski, PK	6-1	167	So	1L	Jacksonville
Eric Locke, FL	5-9	180	So	1L	Murfreesboro, Tenn.	Joe Yount, TE	6-5	253	So	Sq	Albertville
Kenric Lott, OT	6-5	310	Jr	RS	Blackshear, Ga.	Andrew Zow, QB	6-2	215	So	1L	Lake Butler, Fla.





Cornelius Griffin:

He May Be Bama's Best On Defense

by Donald F. Staffo

After delay, star tackle is preparing for final season

It took a while for Cornelius Griffin to get back on the playing field, but once he did it didn't take him long to return to his old form. Griffin, a 6-4, 283-pound defensive tackle, graduated from Pike County High School in Brundidge following the 1994 season. He'll play his second and final year of major college football this fall.

Following his prep career, Griffin signed with nearby Auburn. However, he never made it to Coach Terry Bowden's team. He was placed at Pearl River Junior College in Mississippi, where he played in 1995 and 1996. After making Junior College All-America as a sophomore, he sat out a season before finally playing for the Crimson Tide last fall.

"Alabama didn't recruit me hard out of high school, but it wasn't a big deal to me," Griffin said. "Auburn did the best job of recruiting me. They showed more interest in me than anybody else. Plus, Auburn was closer to my home and more people from the area wanted me to go there. They wanted me to follow Fred Baxter, who is also from my high school and who went on to play tight end for Auburn."

Griffin's plan went astray (or, it could be argued, was straightened out) when he didn't qualify academically and Auburn sent him to Pearl River. But following two stellar seasons at Pearl River, where he made 147 tackles and six sacks as a sophomore while picking up a slew of post-season honors, Griffin lacked 12 credit hours to be eligible as a Division I football player. Rather than return to Pearl River to get them, Cornelius went to Troy State, which is near his hometown.

The delay in completing his academic work gave Alabama the break it needed.

Upcoming senior defensive tackle Cornelius Griffin (97) has the necessary combination of strength and speed to be an excellent football player.

Barry Fikes Photo



Although Cornelius Griffin had a very good year in his first season with the Alabama football team in 1998, he has high goals to improve himself in his final season this fall. He has been very good against the run, but expects to be more effective as a pass-rusher this season. Barry Fikes Photo

"Quincy (Jackson, a Bama wide receiver and cousin of Griffin) started talking to me. He called me every night to see how I was doing," Griffin said. "He kept telling me what it would be like to play together again, and it made sense. He and my family wanted me to go to Alabama. Quincy started talking to other people, including Coach (Ivy) Williams, who began recruiting me.

"Another factor was that Auburn had everybody coming back (on the defensive line) and they wanted me to play tight end, which I hadn't played since high school. Alabama was going to let me play defensive tackle. I also thought that I could get immediate playing time and play more at Alabama. I thought at Alabama that I could make a contribution to the team quicker."

After being sidelined for a year and a half, Griffin was just happy to be playing football again. "My best moment at Alabama was when I walked on the field for our first game against Brigham

Young," Griffin said. "That was the first time that I had been on the (playing) field since 1996. It seemed like I would never get back there again, but I did.

"What I remember is seeing a smile on my mother's face after the BYU game. That did a lot for me."

A little rusty in the early going, Griffin got better as the season progressed. "The more reps I got in practice, the better I got," he said. "My mindset was to go out and learn and correct mistakes so that I could improve."

Last year Griffin got better every game, finishing the season in the Music City Bowl game against Virginia Tech with a game-high nine solo tackles, including one for a loss of seven yards.

"There is no question that he was our most consistent defensive lineman last year," said Defensive Coordinator Ellis Johnson. "He finished the year as our best defensive lineman. The only thing that kept him from getting to that point sooner was the lay-off after junior college. He was out of

football from December 1996 until August 1998. He missed two spring practices and a fall practice. That's basically what he had to make up. I think that it's tougher for linemen because there is so much more technique involved. It took him a little while to get his football shoes back on."

Also impressed is Lance Thompson, the Tide's new defensive line coach. "From what I've seen on tape from watching the last three or four games of the year, he started making strides and making plays," Thompson said. "Once he got back into the flow, he got his confidence back and became a quiet leader, leading by example. He's got the temperament and the personality to be a good player.

"And from my observations of his work habits during the off-season, he seems to be a very diligent worker. He's coachable. He has a real desire and passion for the game. It's important to him. He's still a hungry player. He knows he can get better. He understands that if he does the little things in

the off-season and he works on his weaknesses, he's got a chance to be a real dominant player in the fall."

Bench-pressing some 500 pounds while running a 4.6 forty, Griffin has an exceptional combination of strength and speed. "He's a very physical football player with tremendous strength," said Thompson.

Because of his strength, speed, mobility, versatility and tremendous natural ability, Griffin plays much like a nose tackle (in Alabama lingo the shade tackle).

"The primary difference between the shade tackle and the three-technique tackle is that the shade has to be physically stronger because he will often be double-teamed," said Johnson. Therefore, Thompson added, "The three-technique has a better chance to get to the quarterback because he's more often facing one-on-one blocking." Thompson said that Griffin is particularly good in defending the run. "He needs to work on using his hands so he can separate from blockers and concentrate more on the pass rush," the coach said.

Johnson knows Griffin will get better in

those areas as he gains more experience and doesn't think it will hinder him from reaching his potential. "He doesn't really have a weakness, nothing that will limit him from becoming a great player," said Johnson. "No question, he has a chance to be our best player. To be a prototype defensive lineman, we'd like for him to be an inch or two taller.

"He played extremely well in the Music City Bowl. Next year he will not only be a good player, he's going to be one of our leaders."

No doubt, Griffin improved tremendously over the course of last season and his play helped the Crimson Tide return to the bowl scene. However, he is no where near satisfied. Therefore he has set some pretty high goals for himself for 1999. Whereas he made 70 tackles this past season, he wants 105 tackles next year; whereas he only had two sacks in 1998, he wants 19 in 1999; whereas he made 10 tackles for losses last year, he wants to double that total this year.

To get those numbers Griffin said, "I need

to get stronger and faster and make more tackles in the backfield. I missed 11 tackles for losses last year. I had them, and I let them get away. Against Virginia Tech in the bowl game I had the quarterback sacked in the backfield twice, but he got away from me both times."

To reach those lofty goals, Griffin's plans for the off-season call for running, lifting weights and working on technique. "On the football field I want to give 110 per cent every play," he said. "I want to improve my pass rush off the double-team."

He has substantial team aspirations, too. Griffin was not satisfied with playing in the Music City Bowl. "It was kind of special getting back to a bowl, but next year I want to play in a better bowl," he said. "I want our defense to be ranked first in the SEC and in the nation and first or second against the run. I want to be playing for the SEC Championship on December 1, and I want to win the national championship."

If Griffin continues to improve, and his teammates along with him, anything is possible.

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Transfers Have Played Major Roles

by Chris Olds

Former junior college stars starting for Tide basketball

Although both are completing their senior seasons on the Alabama men's basketball team after having transferred from junior college, Chauncey Jones and Chris Rollins have had college careers more notable for their differences than for their similarities.

Both took the long road from high school stardom to playing on the parquet floor of Coleman Coliseum, taking the junior college detour, and both have adjusted to playing for Coach Mark Gottfried—their third head coach in the last three years. Both are political science majors, both are former NJCAA All-America players, and both are former Top 25 JUCO recruits according to *Basketball Times*. And they comprise half of this year's senior class on the basketball team. But there are differences.

Jones, a 6-1, 180-pound native of Chicago, landed at Alabama for former Coach David Hobbs and started in 29 of the Tide's 31 games last year. Rollins, a 6-5, 205-pound Winnsboro, Louisiana, native, started in four games and played in 13 more before an injury ended his junior season.

Jones has started fewer games for Gottfried this season, while a healthy Rollins became a regular starter for a Tide team which featured 12 underclassmen.

Gottfried is quick to acknowledge the importance of Jones and Rollins. "I think they've done a super job," Gottfried said. "Both of those guys are very valuable to the team. I think the best way to provide leadership is to come to practice everyday and go as hard as you can, which is what they do. I have been very pleased with that."

Jones, who finished his junior college career as the Region XXIV Most Valuable Player performing at Wabash Valley College in Mt. Carmel, Illinois, said the NJCAA and the NCAA Division I game are as different as the schools.

"We had maybe 1,000 students," said Jones, of the Wabash campus. "Here there are more students, more distractions than junior college, and it is a totally, totally different game. On the basketball floor in junior college it is up and down, and more of



Chauncey Jones had one of his best games as Alabama took a triple overtime victory over LSU. Jones had a guard's double-double, 13 points and 10 assists, and committed only one turnover in the win.

Kent Gidley Photo

a fun-type deal, whereas D-one (NCAA Division I) is more like a business."

Jones also said the Tide's schedule, which included a flight to Hawaii in December, is a

world away from the all-Illinois schedule of Region XXIV which meant traveling by van.

Rollins, who played at Southwest Missouri State University's 1,300-student branch in

'BAMA, Inside The Crimson Tide/MARCH '99

West Plains, said basketball in the Southeastern Conference requires more strength and stamina for the schedule and the opposition.

Rollins said, "I think the pace is not as fast, but bigger and stronger people were the biggest adjustment for me. I had to get my weight up. The traveling is a whole lot different. Most of the time (in junior college) we would go out of state for maybe four or five games."

Jones, a true point guard who can distribute the ball and produce offensively, averaged 14.2 points, 3.9 assists and 2.5 rebounds a game in his junior college career while leading his team to back-to-back regional titles and trips to the national tournament in Hutchinson, Kansas.

"Hutchinson was just a great experience to me," Jones said. "I had fun both years that I was out there. Playing against the type of players I was playing against I always thought of it as a blessing."

But it was his first time on the court in an Alabama uniform which brought Jones to where he had been dreaming.

"My first game here was exciting, some-

thing special," Jones said. "It was, 'Ahhh! I'm finally here, finally Division I basketball!' I came out and had a good game, so I stepped onto the campus and onto the court and started my D-one career pretty good. It was just a sigh of relief."

In his first game, an 89-72 Tide win over Marathon Oil, he scored 17 points, and, at the end of the season, he led the Tide with 109 assists and 40 steals while also averaging 9.9 points a game.

Rollins, who ordinarily plays the small forward position but has also been used as a wing guard at Alabama, averaged 16.9 points and 7.9 rebounds a game for the Grizzlies as a sophomore, and left as their second-best career rebounder with 481 boards in 65 career games. Rollins said his coach, Tom Barr, was an assistant coach at Region XVI's Three Rivers Community College when Latrell Sprewell was in his pre-Alabama and pre-NBA days, so the Tide was a natural interest when it came time to transfer.

Rollins said, like Jones, arriving in Alabama was a relief.

"It was a big relief," Rollins said. "You've got that feeling that you are healthy and you

have no problems and it's your turn. It is everybody's dream to get to a major Division I university and it seemed like all of my dreams were coming true at that time."

At the same time Rollins was developing on the court, a fracture was developing in his left wrist. Rollins started four games, but by the 17th game of his junior season—the Tide's 54-point loss to Auburn on January 18—he was done for the year.

"It was a bad feeling," Rollins said. "I had just put up with it so long that every time I would get hit or move it differently there was sharp pain, and I couldn't take it anymore."

While Rollins' junior year of collegiate basketball was shortened due to injury, Jones missed his junior season of high school hoops for reasons much more important than basketball. Chauncey's younger brother, Cordell, developed leukemia, and Chauncey was the only match for a bone marrow donor.

"I guess the best experiences I have had in my lifetime, and it doesn't deal with basketball at all, was the fact that I can see my brother up and healthy, beating cancer and leukemia," Jones said.



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Rollins, who developed into a dangerous perimeter shooter, said his 15-point, six-rebound performance against Northeast Louisiana on December 17, 1998 was his finest moment for the Tide, a game even sweeter being against a home-state opponent. He also said playing against former teammates or opponents are memorable.

He made good on that with his finest game ever for Alabama. In a triple overtime victory over LSU, Rollins scored a career-high 30 points as he hit six three-point shots. He also had nine rebounds.

"It is good to see people that are trying to do the same thing you're doing, and I enjoy playing against them," Rollins said.

"Chris missed some of the year last year being injured," said Gottfried, "so he came in here this year and I think has stepped up."

Jones also had a big game in the triple overtime win over LSU. He had his first double-double, a guard double-double of 13 points and a career-high 10 assists.

Gottfried also intimated junior college transfers may not be as prominent in the Crimson Tide program in years to come. "We'll recruit some, but we primarily want to focus on high school players," he said. "If there is a special need or an area where you need some experience we would. But hopefully we'll sign two or three straight classes in a row with mostly high school players."

Besides basketball success, Rollins explained what else he wants from his time with the Tide. "I just want to be known; my name to be known, that Chris Rollins achieved something at The University of Alabama," he said, "not known as just one of the players who went through the system and not one of the players who is washed up later and nobody knows who they are."

"I will probably have to take a couple of summer classes, but I will graduate this summer," Rollins said. "Basketball isn't first, but that's everybody's dream to try and play professional basketball. If that's just not there, political science is a broad, broad field. Everything, once you get a degree, falls into place."

Jones said a degree is within reach, but he is going to pursue his hoop dreams first, meaning he hopes for a chance in the NBA.

"My first love is basketball, and I am going to play as long as I can and do as much school as I can. My goals are to continue to play ball and to graduate," Jones said. "I already know without a doubt that I have the talent to play at that level. With a break here



Chris Rollins enjoys playing in the big games and has particularly enjoyed such successes as victories over Kentucky and Arkansas in his senior season. Kent Gidley Photo

or there, I feel I am going to be playing somewhere. I am pretty sure I will get a shot, and when I do, I will take advantage of it." He quickly rattles off the names of NBA players he knows personally: Rod Strickland, Roy Rogers, Antonio McDyess, Antoine Walker, Randy Brown.

"Tuscaloosa has been good to me," Jones

said. "I have some good memories. I have met some good people here and have made some good friends here," Jones said. "It has been a quick, quick ride, and things are happening for me pretty quickly. I can remember just yesterday being a freshman at Wabash Valley. I am just so fortunate to have had this opportunity."

No Penalties For Tide Basketball

by Kirk McNair

Infractions Committee praises Alabama response

Boy, that David Swank sure seems like a swell guy. Swank is a professor of law at the University of Oklahoma, but of more relevance to Alabama supporters, he is chairperson of the NCAA Infractions Committee. And when Swank made his latest report of his committee's action regarding Alabama, he could not have been gushier.

This was in stark contrast to the blustery Swank who first announced Alabama's football probation in 1995 or the defensive Swank who had to apologize for his bungling of that case a year later. It is impossible to know, but it may be that Swank was delighted to have Alabama come before his committee after having performed to perfection.

The long-awaited NCAA Infractions Committee report on its investigation into the Alabama men's basketball program brought excellent news for The University. While the actions of former Assistant Coach Tyrone Beaman were judged to have been major violations of NCAA legislation, the response by The University resulted in no penalties against Alabama.

The case involved Beaman, an assistant under former Alabama Head Coach David Hobbs, seeking money from two Alabama alumni, Montgomery attorneys Charles Stakely and Truman Hobbs, Jr., in order to create a recruiting slush fund on January 13, 1998. The alumni not only refused the request, but also notified Alabama's athletics department. Athletics Director Bob Bockrath immediately suspended Beaman, then limited his activities (no recruiting) when he was reinstated. At the end of the year he was fired. Alabama worked with both the Southeastern Conference and the NCAA from the moment the transgression was learned.

Swank could not say enough good about Alabama. He characterized the actions of The University as textbook procedure, "everything we expect an institution to do." He said that had Alabama not done what was done that the penalties would have been very serious. "The University of Alabama should be very proud," Swank said.

Swank was also chairman of the Infractions Committee when it leveled unprecedented penalties against Alabama's football program in 1995. He said he would



Bob Bockrath



Gene Marsh



Marie Robbins

not compare the two cases, instead reiterating Alabama's excellent performance in this case.

Swank said, "In eight and a half years on this committee, I can recall no other case where we have imposed no institutional sanction at all." He said repeatedly in his press conference in which the result was announced that the proactive performance of The University prevented "severe penalties."

While Alabama did not receive penalties, Beaman did. Any school that would attempt to hire him over the next four years would have to get clearance from the Infractions Committee and his duties at a new school could be limited.

The stars for Alabama are clearly Bockrath, Faculty Chairman of Athletics Gene Marsh, and Associate Athletics Director for Compliance Marie Robbins. All were praised by Swank and by University President Dr. Andrew Sorenson, as were University attorneys Sandy Gordon and Stan Murphy. And when the National Alumni Association thinks about next handing out citations, they should probably go to the Montgomery attorneys Stakely and Hobbs, who courageously reported the potential violation to Alabama's athletics department.

Actually, Alabama did receive some penalty. Alabama will be subject to the repeat offender provisions of NCAA legislation for the next five years. That is procedure and unavoidable.

Neither David Hobbs, nor any other member of his staff, nor current Head Coach Mark Gottfried was implicated in the investigation.

Alabama made its presentation to the Infractions Committee on November 15. What had been expected to be about a four-six week wait for results turned into nearly three months, until February 9. Swank said the delay in reporting the case was due to a variety of reasons, none related to the actual case against Alabama.

Several sources said that Alabama's presentation before the Infractions Committee (by Marsh, a professor in the School of Law),

was the most impressive that committee has ever entertained. Marsh, who seemed confident of success from the first and said from the beginning he was not prepared to concede that Alabama should have any penalty, modestly would say only that, "We had a lot of facts." He also said that Alabama could not have received a better result and laughed at the facetious question, "So, you're not going to appeal?"

Robbins has earned a reputation as the nation's most effective director of compliance.

From the first, Alabama officials believed that everyone involved, from Stakely and Hobbs through Bockrath and the athletics administration, had done everything right. Still, there had to be some concern that since a rule had been broken, a penalty would be assessed. There was also conversation that if the NCAA penalized Alabama, it would send a message to alumni to keep quiet about possible transactions.

While Swank said "It was not the intention of the committee to send a message [that if a university does things the right way it may avoid penalties], but I think it does."

It is believed the exoneration will be helpful to the Bama recruiting effort, particularly with junior college All-America guard Antonio Jackson. Jackson, a 6-5 point guard at Butler Community College in Kansas, has been thought to be leaning towards Bama. However, the Huntsville native, who prepped at Butler High School, was also thought to be concerned about possible NCAA penalties that might affect his chances for television or post-season play. That hurdle has now been cleared. Jackson is a national recruit with Kentucky, Kansas, Louisville, Michigan and Southern Cal among the suitors. But it is likely the team Alabama must worry about most is Connecticut.

Gottfried said that Alabama had run across problems in the early recruiting period because of other schools telling prospects that Alabama would be receiving NCAA probation.

Tide Adds In Soccer, Volleyball

by Donna Fromme

February is not just for football as volleyball and soccer teams add signees

While most of the public attention on February 3 was on football recruiting, all fall college sports were able to add signees beginning that day, and the Crimson Tide's women's soccer and volleyball teams have new performers. And both squads were able to attract the top prospects in Alabama.

Soccer Coach Don Staley and his staff added three players. Michele Evans of Garland, Texas; Missy Keller of Hilton Head, South Carolina; and Kim Zarzour of



Michelle Adams



Missy Keller



Kim Zarzour

Huntsville will join the Crimson Tide.

"These three players will make an impact in the program immediately," Staley said. "Although we are not committed to them position-wise because all three are versatile players, each one of them will make an im-

pact on the overall success of our team."

The focus of the class was on the midfield where Alabama lost Leah Formby, Christine Miller and Nellie O'Connor. However, a point of emphasis was placed on the defense as well where Alabama lost the services of Tricia Pappalardo. All three recruits are capable of playing either position.

"What we lost due to graduation is a great deal of experience and productivity," Staley said. "But, we feel that these three players should be able to step in and help continue to add to the success that this program has enjoyed."

Evans, a 5-7 defender/midfielder, was a four-year letterwinner at L.V. Berkner High School for Coach Chuck Brandon. A two-time all-city and all-region player, Evans was named the *Richardson News* Player of the Year after garnering Team MVP honors. She was also a member of the North Texas State Olympic Development Program (ODP) team from 1996 to 1999 and was a member of the 1997 Region III ODP team.

Keller, a 5-6 defender/midfielder, was a three-time MVP for her Hilton Head High School team, and was also a seven-time member of the South Carolina State ODP team. Last season, Keller, who has an older sister playing at Clemson, started the season with 21 goals in her first seven games but fell just short of the South Carolina state single-season record of 49.

Said Staley, "A few years ago, we attempted to recruit her sister, Beth, and, ever since then, have had the opportunity to watch her game grow and develop."

Zarzour, a 5-4 defender/midfielder, helped lead her Grissom High School team to the 1996, 1997 and 1998 state championships, collecting the team's Best Defender Award following both the 1997 and 1998 seasons. A member of the 1998 Region III ODP Pool, Zarzour was also a four-time member of the

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Alabama state ODP team. In 1997, she traveled with the F.C. Global European Travel Team and collected Under-18 Girls' Team MVP honors en route to leading her squad to a first-place finish at the Euro Gold Cup.

"As the state university, we have always felt it to be important that we keep the best home-grown talent at home," Staley said. "Kim Zarzour will bring speed, quickness and outstanding tactical awareness to this team. We feel she will help our program immediately as well as be a valuable part to our future success. We have always had a commitment to recruiting in-state players and we feel that she is one of the best this state has produced."

The volleyball team had what Coach Judy Green called "a very strong recruiting class. I feel this group has the potential to have a great impact on our

rebuilding process." Bama added four signees. They are Shelly Adamcik of Southlake, Texas; Katherine Gaudet of St. Gabriel, Louisiana; Bridget Studnicka of Clay Center, Nebraska; and Emily Sebastian of Mobile McGill-Toolen.

Adamcik, a 6-0 middle blocker, was a first team all-state selection at Carroll High School. She was also MVP in the state tournament as she led her team to the finals. A member of the North Dallas junior club team, she began her career with the Saddleback Valley team in Irvine, California.

Gaudet, a 5-9 outside hitter, is a three-year letterwinner at St. Joseph's Academy in Baton Rouge. She helped guide her prep squad to a 79-11 record over the past two seasons, including a Division I state championship this year. A two-time all-state selection, she posted 456 kills and 222 digs and hit at an impressive .435 clip as a senior. She

is a former member of the Piranha Volleyball Club that finished 11th at junior nationals and currently plays for River City Volleyball Club.

Studnicka, a 5-11 setter, was a four-year letterwinner at Clay Center High School for her mother, Coach Julie Studnicka. She led her team to the class D-1 state championship last year. A three-time all-state selection, Studnicka was named Tribland Player of the Year as a prep senior. She is currently the setter for the Nebraska Juniors club team.

Sebastian becomes the first Alabama native to sign with the Tide in Green's three-year tenure. A 6-1 middle blocker, Sebastian was a standout prep performer for McGill-Toolen. She is a two-time all-state selection and *Mobile Press Register* Player of the Year. Sebastian currently plays for the Bay Area Juniors club team.

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BAMA SCORECARD

Looking Ahead

It has been a tradition that 'Bama is first to give those who follow football recruiting a list of top upcoming high school senior prospects in Alabama. Although those considered prospects now must continue to progress both athletically and academically, and although there will be some highly-regarded prospects next winter who are not on this list, over the years this early compilation has included most of those considered recruiting plums in the next recruiting season. Among those to watch in 1999-2000 are:

Defensive tackle Shamar Abrams of Vincent, offensive tackle Wesley Britt of Cullman, defensive tackle Anthony Bryant of Sunshine in Newburn, defensive end Brett Eddins of Montgomery Trinity Presbyterian, wide receiver Bill Flowers of Pelham, tight end Lynorse Garrett of Cottonwood, running back Derrick Graves of Holt, wide receiver Larry Howell of Prichard Vigor, linebacker Spencer Johnson of Southern Choctaw in Silas, place-kicker Zach Kaye of Tuscaloosa Central, cornerback Corey Larkin of Opelika, wide receiver Triandos Luke of Phenix City Central, linebacker Chance Moyer of Northport Tuscaloosa County, quarterback Phillip Rivers of Athens, defensive tackle Richard Sloane of Prichard Blount, offensive tackle Erwin Snell of Dothan Northview, linebacker Mayo Sowell of Birmingham Shades Valley, cornerback Mario Stanley of Athens, defensive end David Stewart of Moulton Lawrence County, running back T.J. Sullivan of New Hope, defensive end Franklin Turner of Mobile Williamson, defensive tackle Mac Tyler of Bessemer Jess Lanier, and linebacker Kevin Worthy of Attalla Etowah.

Football Lettermen

Head Football Coach Mike DuBose named 71 players as lettermen for the 1998 season. That included 32 who have completed their eligibility. Those lettermen whose college careers have ended are Wes Allen, Brooks Brodie, Fernando Bryant, Bo Butler, Brent Cox, Rhett Crutchfield, Brian Cunningham, Chris Edwards, Michael Feagin, Warren Foust, Calvin Hall, Antoine Hunter, Eddie Hunter, Quincy Jackson, Montoya Madden, Chad McGehee, Drew McNatt, John David Phillips, Greg Phillips, Daniel Pope, Jeff Rowell, Kelvin Sigler, Tito Smith, Travis Smith, Sage Spree, Steven Stanley, Matt Teague, Michael Vaughn, Clint Waggoner, Granison Wagstaff, Jarrod Warren and Owen Winston.

The 39 returning players who earned letters are tailback Shaun Alexander, cornerback Kecal Bailey, wide receiver Tim Bowens, fullback Marvin Brown, wide receiver Shamari Buchanan, linebacker Travis Carroll, defensive tackle Jamie Carter, tailback Adam Cox, offensive tackle Will Cuthbert, safety Tony Dixon, defensive end Shawn Draper, linebacker Victor Ellis, linebacker Darius Gilbert, defensive tackle Cornelius Griffin, defensive end Reggie

Grimes, center Paul Hogan, linebacker Chris Horne, linebacker Canary Knight, tight end Terry Jones, Jr., snapper Bradley Ledbetter, wide receiver Eric Locke, wide receiver Jason McAddley, offensive guard Jason McDonald, fullback Dustin McClintock, linebacker Miguel Merritt, wide receiver Freddie Milons, defensive end Kindal Moorehead, cornerback Reggie Myles, place-kicker Ryan Pflugner, offensive guard Griff Redmill, tailback Arvin Richard, offensive tackle Chris Samuels, cornerback Marcus Slay, defensive end Kenny Smith, strong safety Marcus Spencer, defensive tackle Carlos Stennis, defensive tackle Kelvis White, place-kicker Mark Wisniewski, and quarterback Andrew Zow.

The Lies That Bind

For the most part, what Auburn does gets little attention in this space. For that reason, the "resignation" of and resulting high-dollar hush money to Mr. and Mrs. Terry Bowden, the continuing payoffs to other former Auburn coaches who aren't coaching, the Auburn buy-out of its series with Florida State to play Appalachian State; and the Auburn athletics department reneging on its promise of basketball tickets to 4H Club members are among incidents that are only mildly amusing to 'Bama, not stories to be reported here.

However, a lie against an Alabama athlete is another matter.

Auburn has one of the nation's best basketball teams, perhaps the best. Auburn had defeated Alabama by 15 points in Tuscaloosa earlier this year. Bama is going to finish the season either below .500 or barely at or above that mark while Auburn will finish with its best record ever. Was there any chance that Auburn had to be concerned when Alabama's basketball team visited Auburn February 13? The answer, clearly, is "No." Auburn proved that by roaring out to an early, decisive lead and coasting to a 41-point victory.

So why, then, was a leaflet with a fabricated quote attributed to Tide center Jeremy Hays with a false notation that it had appeared in a Saturday sports section in *The Birmingham News* (which doesn't have a Saturday sports section) distributed to Auburn students (and Auburn players) prior to the game? Is it because the Auburn family is so gullible? Is it because the Auburn Creed doesn't mention lying? Or is it because Auburn is so paranoid regarding The Capstone? Finally, was this done by or with the approval of the Auburn athletics department?

In any event, it is a despicable example of sportsmanship.

Basketball History

Although Alabama is historically recognized primarily for its football achievements, the Crimson Tide has generally achieved very well in all sports. While the Bama men's basketball team is not expected to have great accomplishments this year, Alabama holds an

all-time winning record over every SEC opponent except Kentucky (31-89) and Arkansas (10-15). Alabama ranks third all-time in SEC standings behind Kentucky and Arkansas (which has only a six-year history in the league prior to this year) and third in all-time overall record (again, trailing Kentucky and Arkansas).

Kentucky is the runaway winner with 38 SEC championships, followed by LSU and Tennessee with seven each, Alabama with six.

In the SEC Tournament, Alabama ranks second to Kentucky in both record and championships. Kentucky has a record of 90-15 (.857) and 20 titles, Alabama a mark of 48-31 (.608) and six championships. Kentucky and Vanderbilt are the only SEC teams to have winning records against Alabama in SEC Tournament play. Since the renewal of the tournament in 1979 (following an interruption from 1953 through 1978), Kentucky and Alabama (in that order) are far ahead of the rest of the league in wins and in championships. Kentucky is 33-9 with eight championships, Alabama 32-14 with five titles.

In The NBA

When the National Basketball Association finally got its season started, its teams included nine former Alabama players, second most of any SEC team. Kentucky has 10 former players in the NBA.

Alabama's alumni in the NBA are Keith Askins (who last played at Alabama in 1990) with Miami, Jason Caffey (1995) with Golden State, Robert Horry (1992) Los Angeles Lakers, Antonio McDyess (1995) Denver, Derrick McKey (1987) Indiana, James Robinson (1993) Los Angeles Clippers, Roy Rogers (1996) Cleveland, Latrell Sprewell (1992) New York, and Eric Washington (1997) Denver.

Basketball Signees

Alabama's early signees include two who have been named among the nation's 50 best high school seniors, wing player Rod Grizzard of Central Park Christian in Birmingham and power forward Kenny Walker of Wolfson High School in Jacksonville, Florida.

One of Bama's early signees, guard Terrance Meade of Scottsboro, suffered a late-season knee injury and missed the end of the season, but the injury is not expected to prove serious.

Alabama's other early signee, center Erwin Dudley of R.C. Hatch in Uniontown, joined Grizzard as one of the nominees for the American General Insurance Company and Alabama Sports Writers Association Mr. Basketball candidates.

Reggie King

For the first time the Southeastern Conference has established a "Legends" program in conjunction with the SEC Men's Basketball Tournament (March 4-7). The league is bringing in one "Legend" from each school and will recognize each on court during a timeout of the first game in which each institution participates. The "Legends" will also be featured at the SEC FanFare and the

entire group will be recognized during Saturday's semifinals.

The Crimson Tide will be represented by Reggie King, King, a Birmingham native, now lives in Shawnee, Kansas, choosing to stay in the area after his NBA career with the Kansas City Kings (1979-83). King was a two-time All-America, the 1978 and 1979 SEC Player of the Year, the 1976 SEC Freshman of the Year and a four-time All-SEC player. King is Alabama's all-time leading career scorer (2,168 points) in men's competition and led Alabama in scoring in 1977 (18.1), 1978 (21.2) and 1979 (22.6). He was the 18th pick of the first round by the Kings in the 1979 draft. He also played for the Seattle SuperSonics for two seasons, 1984 & 1985 and then for a couple of years in Europe. In 1986, the *Lakeland Ledger* in Florida named King to its second team for its 25th Year of SEC Basketball All-Time All-SEC squad.

The Real Number One

While Reggie King has been listed as Alabama's leading basketball scorer for a couple of decades, he no longer has that distinction. When Dominique Canty scored 24 points against Arkansas, the senior All-America for Coach Rick Moody's women's team moved into first place among all Alabama basketball players in scoring. That output pushed her to 2,183 points, 15 ahead of King, and Canty still had a handful of games to pad her total. Earlier this year, in a romp over Auburn, Canty has scored 15 points to move into first place among Alabama women, edging ahead of former All-America Niesa Johnson.

Canty is one of 10 finalists for the 1999 Naismith Award, to be presented by the Atlanta Tipoff Club April 3.

Stand Up For Baseball

If you didn't get season tickets to Alabama baseball games and want to see the Crimson Tide in action at Sewell-Thomas Stadium this year, you might have to stand up. That's because all season tickets for the 4,107-seat capacity stadium were sold out prior to the start of the season.

In an unprecedented move, Alabama will make a limited number of standing room only tickets available at each home game. The tickets, which will sell for \$3 each, are available only on game day beginning two hours before the opening pitch.

Last year Alabama finished fifth in the nation in attendance with 120,311 for 33 home dates, an average of 3,646 per game.

On The Air

This year the Alabama baseball radio network will air some 50 games on its 32 affiliates. Some stations will air only selected games and others only SEC games.

Some 25 Alabama baseball games will be televised on a tape-delay basis on the Alabama Cable Network. Most home games were to be telecast beginning at 10 p.m. CST on the day of the game and the Alabama contest at Florida May 14 is also scheduled for delayed cable telecast.

Gymnastics Ranking

For a few weeks, the Alabama gymnastics

team of Coach Sarah Patterson was ranked number one in the nation. Early in the season the rankings are based strictly on a score formula. But Alabama coaches and gymnasts probably knew they were not deserving of the ranking. That's because the Tide had been beaten by Georgia, the pre-season number one choice. As it turns out, when Alabama and Georgia met again, this time in Tuscaloosa before 14,900, Georgia took another close victory and moved back into number one. Still, the Crimson Tide is ranked second in the nation and the young Bama squad should continue to improve as tournament time nears.

Softball Ranking

For the first time in the history of the three-year old program, Alabama's women's softball team moved into the top 25 in the National Fastpitch Coaches' Association poll. Alabama was ranked 19th in the pre-season rankings. LSU was the only SEC team rated ahead of Alabama with the Tigers at ninth. Florida was 20th and South Carolina and Mississippi State also received votes. Fresno State was pre-season number one in the rankings, which were to be updated March 3.

The softball team is under the direction of Head Coach Pat Murphy, who was misidentified under his photograph in the February 'Bama.

Alabama was picked to finish second to LSU in a pre-season poll of SEC coaches.

Staley Gets New Contract

Soccer Coach Don Staley has agreed to a two-year contract extension that will keep him at the Capstone through the 2001 season.

"Don Staley has done a terrific job developing the soccer program at The University of Alabama," said Director of Athletics Bob Bockrath. "Most notably was this past season when he won SEC Coach of the Year honors while his team won the Southeastern Conference Western Division title and was invited to the NCAA Tournament.

"I am also very pleased with his attitude towards efforts in the classroom. His teams typically rank at the top of GPA leaders in all of our sports programs."

Staley, who just completed his fifth season at Alabama, holds a 241-156-31 career record over a span of 14 years, making him the fourth-winningest active coach in men's and women's collegiate soccer. In 1994, he was hired to restart the women's soccer program at The Capstone and, since then, has compiled a 60-36-4 record with the Crimson Tide.

Over that five year span, Alabama has captured three SEC Western Division titles and posted a 17-3-2 record against SEC West teams and a 23-10-1 against the conference overall. In 1998, after beginning the season with a 1-4 record, Alabama rattled off 12 wins in its last 15 matches of the season to notch its first-ever top 25 ranking and accepted a invitation to the NCAA Tournament for the first time in the program's young history.

He has twice taken home SEC Coach of the Year honors, has sent 10 of his Alabama players to All-SEC teams, six of which garnered first team honors, and nine to All-Central Region teams. Academically, Staley's teams have been at their best in the classroom as well. Since 1994, 36 Crimson Tide players have earned Academic All-SEC honors.

Cross Country Success

Although this is not the college cross country season, the USA Cross Country Winter National Championships were held in February to determine the United States entrants to the world championships in Belfast, Ireland, March 27-28. Alabama freshman Ashley LaBudde qualified for the American team by finishing fourth nationally.

New Bama Books

Ronald Weathers, a former sports writer for *The Birmingham News*, has edited a book of stories about the remarkable Fred Sington. Sington, a football All-America and Phi Beta Kappa at Alabama who later played professional football and major league baseball and who was considered the number one citizen of Birmingham until his death last year, is the subject of *Remembering Fred Sington*. This is a collection of stories about Sington "By the people who knew and loved him," as Weathers puts it. The book may be ordered (\$11.95 includes shipping and handling charges) from Ronald Weathers, 817 Rockford Lane, Birmingham, AL 35209.

Coming later this year, perhaps by the April 17 A-Day game, is the newest Alabama book by Al Browning, *Crimson Coronation*. This should be a fascinating read for Alabama fans of all ages as the greatest Crimson Tide teams and coaches of all time are assembled for a playoff to determine the best Bama ever. Browning, former executive editor of 'Bama and sports editor of the *Tuscaloosa News*, has previously penned *Bowl, Bama, Bowl*, a history of Alabama's bowl games, and produced the videotape on former Coach Paul "Bear" Bryant, "The Legacy Lives."

1999 Alabama Football Schedule

Date	Opponent	Site	Series Record
Sept. 4	Vanderbilt	Nashville	Bama leads 54-19-4
Sept. 11	Houston	Birmingham	Bama leads 8-0-0
Sept. 18	Louisiana Tech	Birmingham	Bama leads 3-1-0
Sept. 25	Arkansas	Tuscaloosa	Bama leads 6-3-0
Oct. 2	Florida	Gainesville	Bama leads 17-12-0
Oct. 16	Ole Miss	Oxford	Bama leads 37-7-2
Oct. 23	Tennessee	Birmingham	Bama leads 42-31-8
Oct. 30	Southern Miss (Homecoming)	Tuscaloosa	Bama leads 29-4-2
Nov. 6	LSU	Tuscaloosa	Bama leads 41-16-5
Nov. 13	Mississippi State	Tuscaloosa	Bama leads 67-13-3
Nov. 20	Auburn	Auburn	Bama leads 36-26-1

1998-99 Alabama Winter Sports Results

Men's Basketball

Date/ UA	Opponent	Time (CST)/ Opp.
92	Marathon Oil (exh.)	82
88	BC Haaglanden of Holland (exh.)	75
70	@ Ohio State	78
79	Tennessee Tech	53
75	Boston University	52
71	McNeese State	60
87	Jacksonville State	44
58	@ Texas A&M	65
53	@ Tulane	52
69	Alabama State	48
59	South Alabama @ Birmingham	45
84	Northeast Louisiana	67
Pearl Harbor Classic @ Honolulu		
84	Weber State	80 (OT)
59	Oregon State	49
58	Michigan State	75
58	Georgia (J-P TV)	59
60	@ Ole Miss	78
50	Mississippi State (ESPN)	55
70	@ LSU	71
78	South Carolina (J-P TV)	70
67	@ Arkansas	60
58	Auburn	73
68	@ Florida	72
64	@ Tennessee (Fox SportsSouth)	100
50	@ Mississippi State	79
62	Kentucky (J-P)	58
72	LSU	71 (3 OT)
61	@ Auburn	102
75	@ Vanderbilt (CBS)	81 (OT)
Feb. 24	Ole Miss	7:00
Feb. 27	Arkansas (J-P)	1:00
March 4-7	SEC Tournament @ Atlanta	

Women's Basketball

Date/ UA	Opponent	Time (CST)/ Opp.
107	AAU Mississippi All-Stars (exh.)	78
79	Athletes In Action (exh.)	66
93	Northwestern State	65
72	Georgia Southern	40
96	@ Samford	52
DePaul University Invitational @ Chicago		
77	New Mexico State	31
87	DePaul or Providence	67
96	@ South Alabama	55
Richmond Invitational @ Richmond, Va.		
79	Old Dominion	68
73	Penn State	77
71	Florida	77
97	Alabama-Birmingham @ BJCC	80
ACC-SEC Challenge @ Myrtle Beach, S.C.		
75	North Carolina	90
St. Peter's Invitational @ Jersey City, N.J.		
92	TCU	71
65	St. Peter's	56
70	@ Georgia	85
69	@ Auburn	73
78	Ole Miss	51
75	@ Mississippi State	59
72	@ Kentucky	76
71	LSU	66
73	Tennessee	85
50	@ LSU	75
87	South Carolina (Fox SportsSouth)	73
72	Auburn	57
75	@ Florida (ESPN)	73
73	Arkansas	77
102	Vanderbilt	59
Feb. 25-28	SEC Tournament @ Chattanooga	

Gymnastics

Date/ UA	Opponent	Time (CST)/ Opp.
195.075	Ohio State	190.275
195.725	@ Georgia	196.450
196.8	Auburn	190.95
196.025	Minnesota	194.65
195.875	@ Florida	195.225
196.35	Georgia	197.30
196.825	@ Penn State	197.025
197.80	@ Massachusetts	193.85
Feb. 26	Kentucky	7:00
March 6	LSU	7:00
March 13	@ Utah State	8:00
March 27	SEC Championships	
@ Tuscaloosa		
April 10	NCAA Central Regional	
@ TBA		
April 22-	NCAA Championships	
April 24	@ Salt Lake City, Utah	

Men's Indoor Track

Date	Event	Finish
Jan. 9	Buckeye Opener	1 of 6 teams
@ Columbus, Ohio		
Jan. 15-16	@ Kentucky Invitational	
Alabama 47, Kentucky 39		
Alabama 42, Georgia 42		
Jan. 22-	Rocky Mountain Cup	
Jan. 23	@ Colorado Springs, Colorado	
Jan. 22-23	@ Virginia Tech Invitational	
Jan. 30-	SEC/ACC Track Challenge	
@ Gainesville, Fla.		
Feb. 5-	Mayo Invitational	
Feb. 6	@ South Bend, Ind.	
Feb. 20-	SEC Championships	
Feb. 21	@ Gainesville, Fla.	5th
Feb. 26-	USATF Championships	
Feb. 27	@ Atlanta	
Feb. 26-	Last Chance	
Feb. 27	@ South Bend, Ind.	
March 5-	NCAA Championships	
March 6	@ Indianapolis, Ind.	

Men's Swimming

Date/ UA	Opponent	Time (CST)/ Opp.
100	Northeast Louisiana	104
96	@ LSU	138
Dec. 3-5	Georgia Invitational @ Athens	
Dec. 3-5	@ Princeton Invitational	
101	@ Georgia	174
96.5	@ Kentucky	142.5
@ South Carolina		
92	Auburn	124
Feb. 17-	SEC Championships	
Feb. 20	@ Lexington, Kentucky	7th
Feb. 27-	Last Chance Meet	
Feb. 28	@ Auburn	
March 6-	Last Chance Meet	
March 7	@ Auburn	
March 12-	NCAA Diving Zone	
March 14	@ TBA	
March 25-	NCAA Championships	
March 27	@ Indianapolis, Indiana	

Women's Swimming

Date/ UA	Opponent	Time (CST)/ Opp.
48	Washington State	47
77	Northeast Louisiana	18
89	@ LSU	147
Dec. 3-5	Georgia Invitational @ Athens	
Dec. 3-5	@ Princeton Invitational	
105	@ Georgia	171
86	@ Kentucky	130
@ South Carolina		
83	Auburn	141
Feb. 17-	SEC Championships	
Feb. 20	@ Lexington, Kentucky	9th
Feb. 27-	Last Chance Meet	
Feb. 28	@ Auburn	
March 6-	Last Chance Meet	
March 7	@ Auburn	
March 12-	NCAA Diving Zone	
March 14	@ TBA	
March 18-	NCAA Championships	
March 20	@ Athens, Georgia	

Women's Indoor Track

Date	Event	Finish
Dec. 4	@ Clemson Opener	N/A
Jan. 16	@ LSU Invitational	N/A
Jan. 23	@ LSU Purple Tiger	2nd of 5
Jan. 30	East Tennessee Invitational	
@ Johnson City		
Feb. 5-	Butler Invitational	
Feb. 6	@ Indianapolis, Ind.	
Feb. 12	Collegiate Invitational	
@ Colorado Springs, Colorado		
Feb. 12	@ Clemson Invitational	
Feb. 20-	SEC Championships	
Feb. 21	@ Gainesville, Fla.	7th
Feb. 26-	USATF Championships	
Feb. 27	@ Atlanta	
Feb. 26	Last Chance @ LSU	
March 5-	NCAA Championships	
March 6	@ Indianapolis, Ind.	

1999 Alabama Spring Sports Schedules

Baseball

Date	Opponent	Time
5	@ Houston	1
5	@ Houston 9 (11 inn.)	
2	@ Houston	6
3	Samford	1
3	Arkansas State	2
4	Arkansas State	8
13	Arkansas State	5
Feb. 23	Troy State	7 p.m.
Feb. 24	Troy State	7 p.m.
Feb. 26	Cal-St.-Fuller.	7 p.m.
Feb. 27	Cal-St.-Fuller.	2 p.m.
Feb. 28	Cal-St.-Fuller.	2 p.m.
Mar. 2	Austin Peay	7 p.m.
Mar. 5	Providence	7 p.m.
Mar. 6	Providence	2 p.m.
Mar. 7	Providence	2 p.m.
Mar. 9	Southern Miss	7 p.m.
Mar. 12	@ Tennessee	6 p.m.
Mar. 13	@ Tennessee	1 p.m.
Mar. 14	@ Tennessee	1 p.m.
Mar. 16	West Alabama	7 p.m.
Mar. 19	Georgia	7 p.m.
Mar. 20	Georgia	2 p.m.
Mar. 21	Georgia	2 p.m.
Mar. 23	Kansas State	7 p.m.
Mar. 24	Kansas State	7 p.m.
Mar. 26	@ Auburn	6 p.m.
Mar. 27	@ Auburn	2 p.m.
Mar. 28	@ Auburn	1:30 p.m.
Mar. 30	@ Jax State	7 p.m.
Mar. 31	Jacksonville St.	7 p.m.
Apr. 2	South Carolina	7 p.m.
Apr. 3	South Carolina	2 p.m.
Apr. 4	South Carolina	2 p.m.
Apr. 7	N'western State	7 p.m.
Apr. 9	@ Miss State	6:30 p.m.
Apr. 10	@ Miss State	5 p.m.
Apr. 11	@ Miss State	1:30 p.m.
Apr. 14	@ UAB	6 p.m.
Apr. 16	LSU	7 p.m.
Apr. 17	LSU	2 p.m.
Apr. 18	LSU	1 p.m.
Apr. 20	South Alabama	7 p.m.
Apr. 23	Arkansas	7 p.m.
Apr. 24	Arkansas	2 p.m.
Apr. 25	Arkansas	2 p.m.
Apr. 28	UAB	7 p.m.
Apr. 30	@ Ole Miss	7 p.m.
May 1	@ Ole Miss	4 p.m.
May 2	@ Ole Miss	1:30 p.m.
May 7	Vanderbilt	7 p.m.
May 8	Vanderbilt	2 p.m.
May 9	Vanderbilt	2 p.m.
May 14	@ Florida	6 p.m.
May 15	@ Florida (SS)	2 p.m.
May 16	@ Florida	12:30 p.m.
May 19	SEC Tournament	
May 24	@ Hoover	
May 28	NCAA Regionals	
May 30	TBA	
June 4	NCAA Super Regionals	
June 5	TBA	
June 11	College World Series	
June 19	@ Omaha, Nebraska	

All times central

Softball

Date	Opponent	Time
	Fiesta Bowl Classic @ Phoenix	
6	Long Beach State	1
1	Massachusetts	8
2	Maryland	3 (8 inn.)
1	Utah	2 (8 inn.)
0	California	2
1	New Mexico State	0
	Texas Classic @ Austin	
10	Texas-San Antonio	2
7	Texas	1
0	Arizona	8
0	Texas	2
Feb. 26	Bama Bash	
Feb. 28	at Bowers Park	
	McNeese State, North Carolina, Evansville	
Mar. 4	Speedline Classic	
Mar. 7	@ Tampa, Fla.	
	Iowa, Florida A&M, South Carolina,	
	Illinois-Chicago, Maryland	
Mar. 12	Frost Cutlery Tourn.	
Mar. 14	@ Chattanooga, Tenn.	
	Winthrop, UCLA, Chattanooga, Mercer, Charleston Southern	
Mar. 19	@ Arkansas	2 p.m.
Mar. 20	@ Arkansas	Noon
Mar. 27	Kentucky	1 p.m.
Mar. 28	Tennessee	1 p.m.
Mar. 30	@ Centenary	5 p.m.
Mar. 31	@ La. Tech	5 p.m.
Apr. 2	Auburn	5 p.m.
Apr. 3	Auburn	12:30 p.m.
Apr. 7	Samford	5 p.m.
Apr. 9	@ Ole Miss	5 p.m.
Apr. 10	@ Ole Miss	1 p.m.
Apr. 17	Florida	1 p.m.
Apr. 23	Miss. State	5 p.m.
Apr. 24	Miss. State	12:30 p.m.
Apr. 27	Troy State	5 p.m.
May 1	@ So. Carolina	Noon
May 2	@ Georgia (SS)	12:30 p.m.
May 7	@ LSU	5 p.m.
May 8	@ LSU	1 p.m.
May 13	SEC Tournament	
May 16	@ Columbus, Ga.	

All times central

Men's Outdoor Track

Date	Event
Mar. 25	Alabama Relays
Mar. 28	
Apr. 3	USOC Training @ San Diego, Calif.
Apr. 10	@ UTEP Invitational
Apr. 10	Sea Ray Relays @ Knoxville
Apr. 17	SEC Quadrangular @ Gainesville
Apr. 22	Penn Relays
Apr. 24	@ Philadelphia
May 1	Alabama Open
May 13	SEC Championships @ Athens
May 16	@ Athens
June 2	NCAA Championships
June 5	@ Boise, Idaho

Men's Tennis

Date/UA	Opponent	Time/Opp.
7	Troy State	0
7	Georgia State	0
7	Southern Miss	0
1	@ Illinois	6
2	@ Northwestern	5
3	@ Vanderbilt	4
Feb. 18	National Team Indoor	
Feb. 20	@ Seattle	
	UAB	1
Feb. 27	@ Princeton	1 p.m.
Mar. 2	Tennessee	1 p.m.
Mar. 5	@ So. Carolina	Noon
Mar. 7	@ Georgia	1 p.m.
Mar. 11	Ole Miss	1:30 p.m.
Mar. 18	Blue-Gray Classic	
Mar. 21	@ Montgomery	
Mar. 24	@ Kentucky	1 p.m.
Mar. 26	Auburn	1:30
Mar. 28	Arkansas	1 p.m.
Apr. 1	@ BYU-Hawaii	10 a.m.
Apr. 2	@ Hawaii	10:30 a.m.
Apr. 7	@ Florida	1 p.m.
Apr. 9	LSU	1 p.m.
Apr. 15	Miss. State	1 p.m.
Apr. 22	SEC Championships	
Apr. 25	@ Gainesville	
May 14	NCAA Regionals	
May 16	TBA	
May 22	NCAA Championships	
May 29	@ Athens	

All times central

Women's Tennis

Date	Opponent	Time
8	Southern Miss	0
6	UAB	3
5	@ Georgia Tech	4
4	@ Auburn	5
Feb. 18	National Team Indoor	
Feb. 21	@ Madison, Wisc.	
Feb. 27	Maryland @ Williamsburg, Va.	Noon
Feb. 28	@ Wm & Mary	11 a.m.
Mar. 6	Florida	Noon
Mar. 7	Clemson	Noon
Mar. 9	South Carolina	2 p.m.
Mar. 14	@ LSU	Noon
Mar. 17	Tennessee	2 p.m.
Mar. 20	Vanderbilt	Noon
Mar. 30	@ Southern Cal	1:30
Mar. 31	@ Pepperdine	1:30
Apr. 2	Arkansas	2 p.m.
Apr. 6	@ Georgia	2:30
Apr. 8	Miss. State	2 p.m.
Apr. 11	@ Kentucky	10 a.m.
Apr. 17	Miami	Noon
Apr. 18	@ Ole Miss	1 p.m.
Apr. 22	SEC Championships	
Apr. 25	@ Baton Rouge	
May 14	NCAA Regionals	
May 16	TBA	
May 20	NCAA Championships	
May 28	@ Gainesville	

All times central

Men's Golf

Date	Event	Finish
Feb. 18	John Burns	
Feb. 20	@ Honolulu	10 of 21
Feb. 28	Mercedes Invitational	
Mar. 1	@ Jacksonville, Fla.	
Mar. 3	Matlock Collegiate	
Mar. 5	@ Lakeland, Fla.	
Mar. 19	Spring Invitational	
Mar. 21	@ Montgomery	
Apr. 3	Cleveland Golf Inv.	
Apr. 4	@ Augusta, Ga.	
Apr. 9	Billy Hitchcock	
Apr. 11	@ Auburn	
Apr. 16	SEC Championships	
Apr. 18	@ Lexington	
May 13	NCAA Regionals	
May 15	@ Providence, R.I.	
May 26	NCAA Championships	
May 29	@ Minneapolis	

Women's Outdoor Track

Date	Event
Mar. 20	Jamaican Relays @ Kingston, Jamaica
Mar. 20	@ Auburn Relays
Mar. 25	Alabama Relays
Mar. 28	
Apr. 2-3	@ Texas Relays
Apr. 10	@ UTEP Invitational
Apr. 17	SEC Quadrangular @ Gainesville

Women's Golf

Date	Event	Finish
Feb. 26	Florida Lady Gator	
Feb. 28	@ Gainesville	
Mar. 12	LSU Fairwood	
Mar. 14	@ Baton Rouge	
Mar. 26	South Carolina Inv.	
Mar. 28	@ Columbia	
Apr. 2	Women's Southern	
Apr. 4	@ Athens, Ga.	
Apr. 16	SEC Championships	
Apr. 18	@ Auburn	
May 8	NCAA Regional	
May 10	@ Columbia, S.C.	
May 21	NCAA Championships	
May 24	@ Tulsa, Okla.	



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WDNG-AM, Anniston
WSMQ-AM, Bessemer
WEZN-AM, Birmingham
WKLF-AM & WEZZ-FM, Clanton
WLDX-AM, Fayette
WGAD-AM, Gadsden
WARF-AM, Jasper
WKLD-FM & WCRL-AM, Oneonta
WMXA-FM, Opelika
WFHK-AM, Pell City
WFEB-AM, Sylacauga
WSSY-FM, Talladega
WRTR-FM, Tuscaloosa
WCJM-FM, West Point, GA
WKXM-FM, Winfield

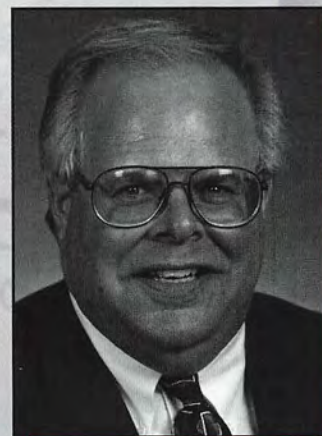


NORTH ALABAMA

WAFN-FM, Arab
WFMH-AM & FM, Cullman
WAVD-AM, Decatur
WVNA-AM, Florence
WMXN-AM, Fort Payne
WGSV-AM, Guntersville
WJBB-AM, Haleyville
WTKI-AM, Huntsville
WXKI-FM, WHIY-AM, Moulton
WJRD-AM, Russellville
WKEA-FM, Scottsboro

SOUTH ALABAMA

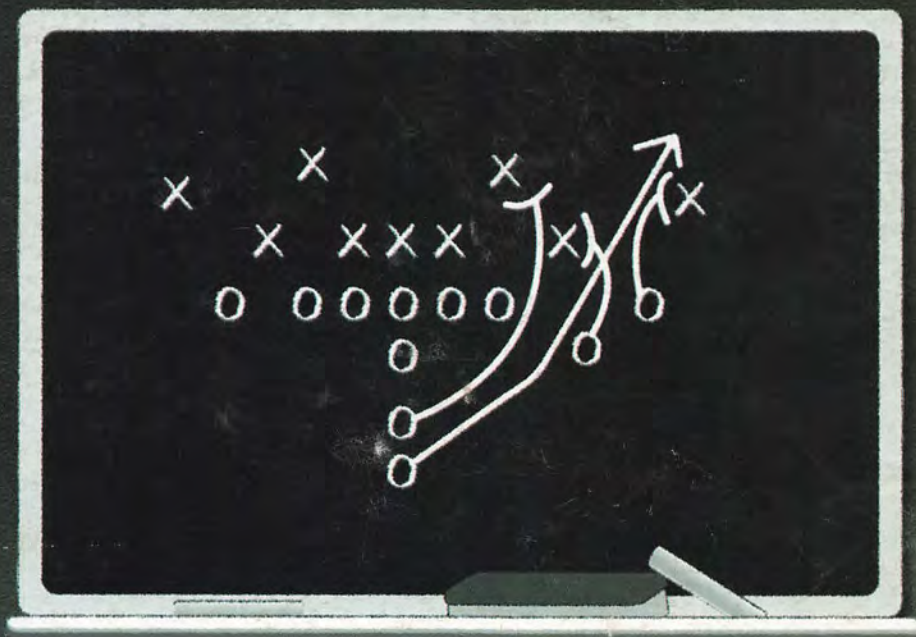
WKNU-FM Brewton
WQGL-FM Butler
WAGF-AM Dothan
WDMT-FM Eufaula
WKSJ-AM, WNSP-FM Mobile
WMFC-AM Monroeville
WHHY-AM Montgomery
WAMI-AM Opp
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